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STREET SHEET IS READER SUPPORTED, ADVERTISING FREE, AND AIMS TO LIFT UP THE VOICES OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

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STREET SHEET



Credit: Shaun Slifer - justseeds.org

SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE: As of April 15th there are 1,378 people on the waitlist for shelter in SF.

NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS FROM CURRENT AND FORMER SEX WORKERS

FOR OUR JUNE 1ST
STREET SHEET ISSUE

DEADLINE: MAY 27TH



SUBMIT TO qwatts@cohsf.org

Fight to Close Juvenile Hall

Anisha Tammana

On Tuesday, April 9th, supervisors Ronen, Walton, and Haney introduced legislation to shut down San Francisco's Juvenile Justice Center by the end of 2021. A rally to support the initiative took place on the city hall steps that day, and with speakers ranging from city officials to formerly incarcerated youth, the common message rang clear: we need to take action, and we need to stop imprisoning our kids.

The energy in the crowd remained positive and hopeful, cheering on the young leaders and advocates speaking, and holding signs with phrases like "books not bars" and "free our minds". With such a popular and emotional cause being discussed, many prominent leaders in the community came out to speak.

Stevon Cook, president of the San Francisco Unified School District, referred to the detention center as "a building that represents bondage".

"We have to reverse the narrative of what it means to be young and black in San Francisco," he said.

District Attorney George Gascon spoke as well, his presence clearly controversial. While he spoke out in favor of the proposed legislation, he was still met with jeers and cries of "put killer cops in jail", referencing his failure to indict cops responsible for the executions of Mario Woods and Luis Góngora Pat.

A particularly notable sponsor of the legislation was Supervisor Shannan Walton, who was incarcerated as a teenager in Solano County. By continuing to implement and support juvenile detention centers, he said to the crowd, we are "teaching them [youth] to live institutionalized...There is no way in hell we would ever put a system in place worse than juvenile hall."

Overwhelmingly, those who attended the rally were young, passionate advocates. Those who could were there to represent themselves and their communities, and to make their voices heard.

"They portrayed me as someone I wasn't," said youth advocate Tenaya Jones. Jones was fourteen when she was first incarcerated. Now eighteen, working two jobs, and about to graduate high school, she conveyed a sense of hope to the hundreds of faces looking up at her.

Others attending the rally had a powerful message to send as well.

Lucero Herrera, from the Young Women's Freedom Center, talked about why she had turned up for the rally. She was charged as an adult when she was young and feels passionately that the most marginalized individuals should be leading the cause. She now runs circles inside girls' deten-

continues on page 3....

ASK US ANYTHING

HAVE A QUESTION YOU WANT US TO ANSWER ABOUT HOMELESSNESS OR HOUSING IN THE BAY AREA? ASK US AT STREETSHEET@COHSF.ORG OR (415) 346-3740 AND IT COULD BE ANSWERED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition's work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: they bring their agenda to us.

WORKGROUP MEETINGS

AT 468 TURK STREET

HOUSING JUSTICE WORK GROUP

Every Tuesday at noon

The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORK GROUP

Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO OUR WORK GROUP MEETINGS.

Unfortunately our space is not wheelchair accessible, but we will move our meeting location to accommodate people who cannot make it up the stairs. For access needs contact development@cohsf.org

To learn more about COH workgroup meetings, contact us at : 415-346-3740, or go at : www.cohsf.org

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CONTACT:

STREETSHEET@COHSF.ORG

STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

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SUBMIT YOUR WRITING

STREET SHEET publishes news and perspective stories about poverty and homelessness. We prioritize submissions from currently or formerly homeless writers but gratefully accept all submissions.

send submission to qwatts@cohsf.org

City Hall Supervisor Propose to Close Juvenile Hall

continued from page 2...

tion centers and remains a passionate advocate.

Hayden A. Beaulieu, with Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ), talked about his personal ties to the issue. He shared the same sentiment as Herrera regarding where answers come from. "Those who are closest to the problem are closest to the solution," said Beaulieu. In this way, organizations propelled by youth who have been in the system are the most effective and imaginative.

CURYJ runs a program called Homies 4 Justice, a paid internship program that trains Oakland youth in leadership and social action. By emphasizing youth voices, they seek to "end mass incarceration and youth criminalization".

Pushback against closing Juvenile Hall, from figures such as Juvenile Probation Chief Allen Nance, has included typical rhetoric, spreading the message that the public and convicted youth won't be safe.

"They are on the wrong side of history," said Matt Haney of opponents to the proposed legislation. The board now has a veto-proof majority. The legislation comes after a report by the San Francisco Chronicle on reduced crime among youth in California. The legislation specifies a Youth Justice Reinvestment Fund that would use funds previously meant for Juvenile Hall on community-based alternatives as well as mental health and academic resources for youth.

Critics of the Justice Center refer to the system as outdated. In addition to

the declining youth crime rate, many sources stating the ineffectiveness of youth incarceration (researchers at Brown University and MIT) have been referenced by supervisors as reason for closing down the center. Being imprisoned as a youth increases the chances of adult incarceration.

In the last ten years, the annual cost of detaining youth has doubled. Supervisors cited statistics relating to mental health issues among detained children - ninety percent of youth in Juvenile Hall suffer from mental health issues.

Racial justice has long been a common theme in the conversation around incarceration. The overrepresentation of black youth in juvenile halls was another key point brought up by the supervisors backing the legislation.

Black children made up 55% of those in Juvenile Hall in 2018 - yet only account for 4.9% of San Franciscans under 18.

Meredith Desautels, a staff attorney at the Youth Law Center has been working closely with supervisors to develop the legislation. She has partnered with the Young Women's Freedom Center to support and raise communities impacted by youth incarceration.

Ultimately, it was those who had been in the system that had the loudest voices.

"Our city heard our cry," said Steven Cook early in the day. The rallying cry could be heard above everything else.

"Close youth prisons! Build youth leaders!" ■

Preying on the Poor: California's Towing Practices Hurt Everyone

Emily Garcia

Everyone loses in California's vehicle towing game. The state of California, it's taxpayers and the people as a whole all lose massive amounts of money, time and -for those most vulnerable- their vehicles. For many, a vehicle is not only a means of transportation but also a shelter. In a climate where housing is impossible to afford and sustain, people are using their vehicles as shelter. Even for those with homes, a tow can leave them without a car to get to work, increasing the risk of unemployment and can even have an impact on how much folks earn. For families, a vehicle is essential to children's education, as well as access to proper healthcare. The permanent loss of a car for middle class and low income folks can tip them over the edge into homelessness and poverty. Towing is perceived as a public safety service, but has serious consequences for Californian's quality of life and even access to fundamental human needs.

California's towing policies focus on three primary offenses: tows for unpaid parking tickets, tows for unpaid or overdue registration, and tows for vehicles left unattended for 72 hours. While these offenses and the proper path to reclaiming one's vehicle may seem straightforward, there are many bureaucratic obstacles that make it nearly impossible for folks to reclaim their cars.

A report by a coalition of legal organizations across California, outlining California's harmful towing practices. "Towed into Debt: How Towing Practices in California Punish the Poor", illustrates the numbers an average tow costs for the owner. The typical cost to reclaim a vehicle is around \$800. However, if the car was towed for tickets, the owner must pay

for the \$800 fee along with all unpaid tickets, and additional fees for the cost of storage.

When a car is towed for expired registration they must pay the typical fees, along with all registration fees and penalties, and any outstanding traffic and parking tickets. The owner must then pay the towing and storage fees to retrieve and reclaim their vehicle. In instances where a car is parked in one place for more than 72 hours as a result of hospitalization, arrest or other type of emergency, it can be especially difficult to reclaim a car. Once a person in this position finds their car is gone, towing and storage prices may have already begun compounding as each day passes.

Towing for these offenses feed into a cycle that preys on low-income folks. When a person gets a ticket and cannot pay, the towed vehicle can end up with a hold on its registration at the DMV. The owner cannot register the vehicle until all parking tickets and registration fees are paid. If they fail to pay these, more parking tickets can be collected for failure to display valid registration fees. As a person accumulates debt, the smallest offense (such as an expired parking meter, misread parking sign or street cleaning) can fuel this vicious cycle of debt and lead to permanent loss of vehicle.

In addition to this cyclical accumulation of debt for both the state and people, this report found that many of these practices are unconstitutional. The Fourth Amendment protects the rights of individual's property. Under this law, government bodies must have a warrant to seize vehicles for debt collection. This is only applicable when it affects the flow of traffic or protects

property from theft or vandalism. However these top three violations do not break the law nor affect the flow of traffic.

The high cost of these tows can have a financial shock that lasts for at least six months. While the costs might be hefty for Californians, the state loses large sums of money when they tow for poverty-related reasons. When the state tows, the car is often more likely to be sold at lien sales than it is to be claimed and in the midst of it all, tow companies lose thousands of dollars. Half of all vehicles that San Francisco tows were sold in lien sales, 55% of which collected for lack of registration.

These towing practices prove to be counterproductive as they often deprive people of their employment, guaranteeing a loss of money for the state. Studies within the report show that the higher the cost that the state asks in fees, the less likely the state will ever see any money. However, when the state adjusts its fees according to an individual's financial capabilities, they are more likely to collect.

Those most disproportionately affected are unhoused folks, immigrants and also people of color. Towing is directly linked to a long history of punishing the poor in the United States. East Bay Express reported a towing crisis in Oakland, where 26,000 tows affected majority Latinx and Black communities. In San Francisco, MTA officers are dispatched to locations of complaints concerning the presence of homeless folks. Studies have also revealed a significant racial bias in traffic stops, that lead to towing.

While many might think the an-

swer might be public transportation, many Californians (especially those not living in major city centers) that transportation is time-consuming, unreliable and expensive. People of color rely heavily on public transportation to go about their daily lives. But, lack of investment in transportation fuels racial inequality, economic opportunity and racial segregation within a city. This makes car ownership crucial to economic well-being.

Towing a vehicle is counterproductive on many ends, and creates unnecessary debt for vehicle owners and the state. These practices disproportionately affect working class folks, all while those with money can afford to break parking laws time and time again (as long as they can pay their ticket). These policies make it near impossible to reclaim their vehicles, and cause detrimental setbacks to the state of someone's financial, health and mental well-being.

However, three proposals moving through the California legislature could remedy some of these problems. Assemblymember David Chiu — with support from the American Civil Liberties Union of California and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights in the Bay Area — is sponsoring Assembly Bill 516, which would eliminate poverty-related tows for vehicles with more than five unpaid parking tickets. Also, Marc Berman's AB 302 would require community colleges to grant overnight parking access to enrolled students, while Autumn Burke's AB 891 would mandate California cities with populations over 330,000 people to collaborate with nonprofits in establishing safe parking programs for vehicle-dwelling persons and families by June 1, 2022. ■

Ending Homelessness Demands a Fair Budget

Street Sheet Staff

According to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, over 20,000 people experience homelessness in our city each year, but San Francisco only 2,500 temporary shelter beds available, causing our shelter wait list for single adults to exceed 1,400 shelter seekers. San Francisco must address this crisis. San Francisco only spends 2.7% of its entire budget on homelessness, making it a low priority in spending decisions historically. The Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association (HESPA), a coalition of service providers, with direct input from homeless people themselves, has offered up a detailed budget proposal to do as much as possible in the short term and within the constraints of a two-year budget to keep San Franciscans housed and to house homeless San Franciscans.

Since 2012, HESPA has developed proposals to ensure safe and dignified emergency services, replace expired federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing

grants, prevent homelessness among people at risk, and create additional exits out of homelessness through subsidies and vacant unit rehabilitation.

Since then the amount of funding allocated to homeless services has climbed slowly to meet the asks put forward, from \$3 million that first year to \$9.9 million in the 2018/19 budget cycle. As a result of these investments, by the end of this fiscal year, almost 1,509 households will exit homelessness, thousands of households will maintain their housing, and thousands of homeless people will receive deeply enriched emergency, employment, and mental health services that enable safety, and dignity.

Despite the successes enabled by the City's investments in the homeless service system, significant gaps persist that result in long waits for shelter and housing, visible street-based homelessness, unmet mental health needs among homeless people, and a lack of

housing exits from the existing emergency shelter system. In this upcoming budget cycle, HESPA has offered up a proposal that would prevent homelessness among people who are at risk of eviction, provide housing solutions to a greater number of homeless San Franciscans, and respond to the emergency health, behavioral health, and other basic needs of people who are on our streets due to the limited capacity of our current shelter and housing system.

Using a careful, data-driven process to analyze our current housing and homeless system, identify service gaps, and tap into the experience and creativity of our providers to determine the most cost-effective solutions, HESPA is proposing a \$13.9 million that would not end homelessness but would significantly reduce the number of people on the streets and curb the displacement of precariously housed San Franciscans. ■

HATE HAS NO HOME HERE

Highlights from the HESPA proposal

PRIVATE MARKET HOUSING SUBSIDIES: Fund 338 new household subsidies to families, the transgender community, single adults, the elderly, and people with disabilities to allow San Franciscans to move out of homelessness or retain permanent, rent-controlled housing.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Expand emergency services to thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness in severely underserved communities. This initiative would provide funding for housing navigation services for homeless families in shelters, drop-in centers, overnight bathrooms, and emergency housing subsidies for youth.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RIGHT TO COUNSEL: Even the playing field and ensure all San Franciscans have a Right to Counsel in eviction proceedings by adding 5 attorneys, with paralegals and social workers, expanding back rent, and other prevention strategies to serve approximately 1,735 households annually who are at risk of eviction from housing and shelter.

CRITICAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND EMPLOYMENT: Provide site-based mental health services to homeless families, and fund innovative behavioral health innovations such as pop up mental health services and youth-specific psychiatric and clinical supports and employment services for over almost 1,500 households.

To read the full HESPA budget proposal visit us online at <http://www.cohsf.org/budget-justice-2019/>

#FUNDHESPA

We are calling on the Board of Supervisors to fund the **\$13.9M budget proposal to house San Franciscans and keep San Franciscans housed**. Developed by a coalition of 28 homeless service providers, the funding proposal will serve over 4,000 of San Francisco's most vulnerable families, youth, and adults.

Mental Health Services

12.7%

Employment Services

6.2%

Homelessness Prevention

27.7%

Housing Subsidies

41.5%

Emergency Services

11.8%



AFTER A STORMY MEETING, A SAFE HARBOR FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE?

TJ Johnston

Judging by the raucous community meeting about the proposed navigation center by The Embarcadero, it's safe to assume nobody was satisfied.

The City's Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing hosted the meeting on April 3 at the Delancey Street Foundation, less than a four-minute walk from the potential site on Port of San Francisco-owned property at Seawall Lot 330.

And the audience was divided into two camps as distinct as the separate GoFundMe campaigns related to the would-be shelter. Currently there are two such campaigns: the Safe Embarcadero page raising money for a lawyer to oppose the center, and the Safer Embarcadero page in favor.

On one side, there were opponents of the shelter who are housed in adjacent, affluent neighborhoods along The Embarcadero, most of whom wore orange stickers that read "Safe Embarcadero." Representing the other side were shelter proponents who carried pink paper signs that read "Hate has no home here." The supporters held the signs whenever opponents booed and jeered during the City's presentation.

On April 23, the Port Commission will decide whether to allow a temporary structure that would accommodate around 200 homeless San Franciscans in what is being billed as a "SAFE Navigation Center." If the commission approves, it would be the fifth active low-threshold shelter with case management and supportive services.

Despite his initial reservations about the size of the center, District 6 Supervisor Matt Haney said that unhoused people in the area would benefit from the amenities.

"This SAFE Navigation Center is an opportunity for us to address the urgent and growing challenge of homelessness in the Rincon

Hill, South Beach and Mission Bay neighborhoods," he said in a March 4 press release from Mayor London Breed, who is also urging the site to be opened. "We know that ending street homelessness requires us to build more shelter beds with high-quality wraparound services."

But what's different about this SAFE center — Breed's acronym for "Shelter Access For Everyone" — from previous navigation centers is the proximity to high-income housing and tourist attractions. The visible homelessness in the area has already raised the hackles of luxury condo dwellers. The possibility of a facility lodging previously unsheltered people has prompted a GoFundMe campaign to hire Zacks, Freedman & Patterson PC, a law firm that describes itself as "the voice of Bay Area property owners." So far, that campaign has raised over \$100,000, while a competing GoFundMe by former Google publicist William Fitzgerald is closing in on \$175,000 (Disclosure: Funds will be donated to the Coalition on Homelessness, a homeless advocacy organization that publishes Street Sheet).

The tone of the event was such that written questions to City officials had to be submitted on index cards, and some of these were pointed — and reinforced a frame of visible homelessness as a threat to the safety of housed residents. One was "how will my son be safe?" Another said, "how will

we make sure there aren't drugs?" Surprisingly, one asked without any apparent irony, "why is it important for these (homeless) people to have a place to sleep?"

(To provide context for that last question, a woman who described herself as formerly homeless said the waitlist for a 90-day shelter reservation has over 1,400 people, citing a recent Street Sheet issue and the City's 311 website.)

Shelter naysayers groaned during presentations of the shelter design, including landscaping, translucent roofing, noise-masking fabric, an outdoor garden and dog-run area.

Homeless advocates at the meeting were audibly put off when SFPD Lt. David Lazar, who commands the Healthy Streets Operation Center, told the audience there will be heavy police presence in the area. Already, placements

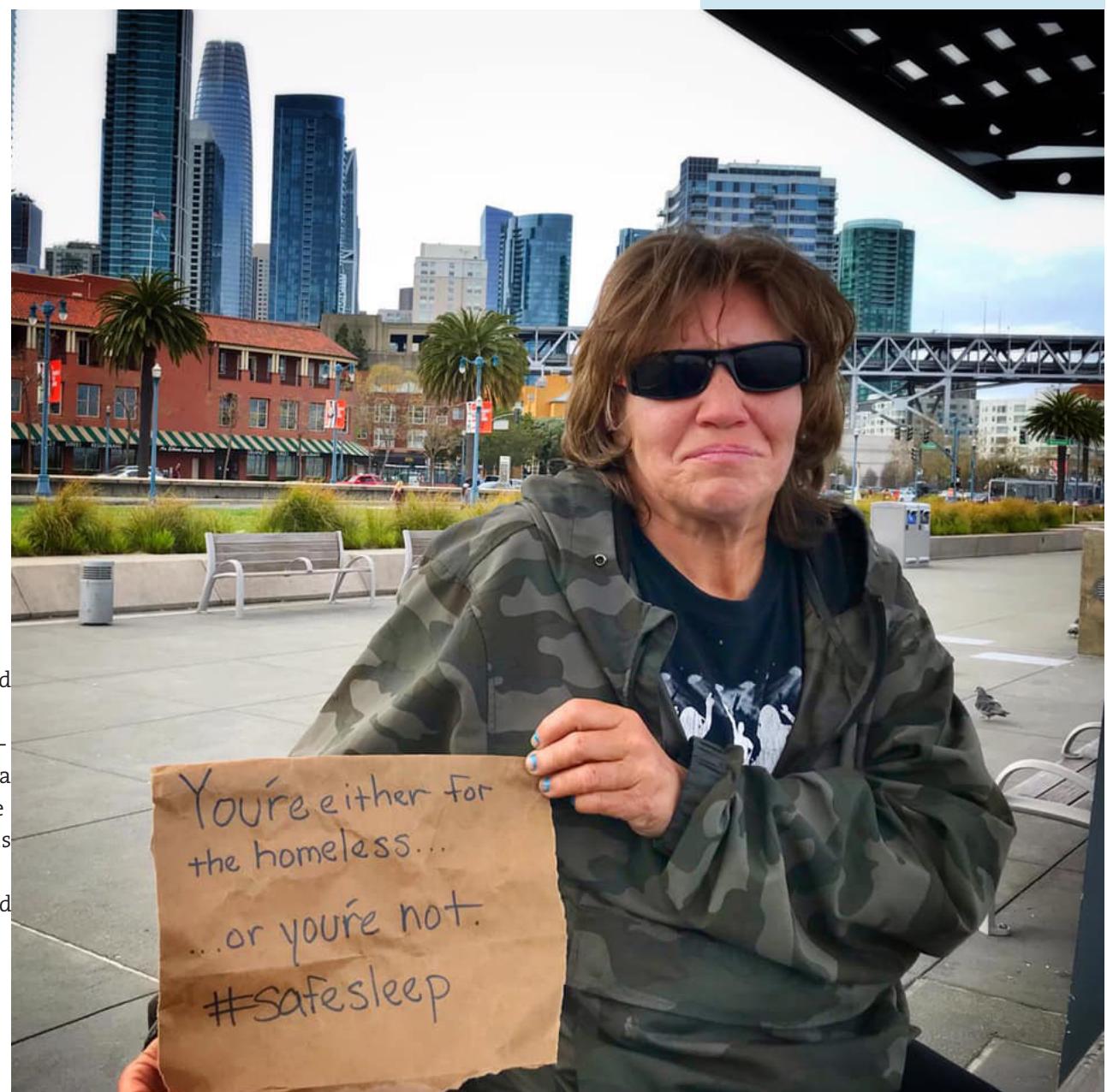
to existing navigation centers are prompted by neighbors' complaints about encampments, bypassing the waitlists and need-based prioritization of other shelters.

Lazar's unit takes the lead in camp sweeps and has been criticized for seizing tent dwellers' possessions. Even when Lazar said that no connection of homelessness to increased crime existed, it didn't seem to mollify anyone.

Just before the two-hour meeting ended, a group of opponents walked out en masse. ■

Image description: woman holding sign that read "You're either for the homeless...or you're not. #SafeSleep" The skyline of downtown San Francisco is in the background, including the Salesforce tower.

Photo by Kelley Cutler



Pain!!

Lorne Thomas aka Sewer Rich®

pain
is but a 4 letter word to try to explain

all the emotion struggles that a person must strain
to carry on their shoulders walking through life trying to maintain
a smile that is plastered hiding the fact that it is the emotion that we cannot face
it can bring tears to your eyes and makes you feel displaced
it renders your soul empty leaving you in disgrace
making you want to vanish without a trace.on

Pain!!

why must it be this way
some rise above it but mostly we stay
in memory of the moment's that we could have changed
forever wondering lost with stained marked pasts leaving you hollowed and drained
forever making you think of what could have been
for what is the shame in the hearts of men

Pain!!

Although you may try
it always brings tears to your eyes
wise men heed where foolish men die
what does it take for man to remove all pride

Pain!!

It comes in waves
shocks your soul takes your breath
pain
it will captivate all that makes you exist it will put you to death
strip your mind and rot your flesh
make it so you may never egress

That's right PAIN Pain!!

It's what fuels the fire that burns within it can make you sad or make you grin it is just a 4 letter word that compels you to achieve you can either sit there and learn from it or you can just grieve I'll tell you what I'm gonna do I'm gonna succeed

Breed

Doing whatever i got to do cause pain it the sparks and ignites the fire deep from with inside of me to make it through the next day it helps me know I'm still alive worry and stress only makes that circle small so to the pain PAIN i say F*** YOU f*** you!!!

I will survive...

Pain!!

HEARTLESSNESS TOWARDS HOMELESS PEOPLE

Darnell Boyd

How could we as a wealthy, prosperous city be so heartless against the homeless people, especially those with mental health issues? We all know that we need a new state-of-the-art shelter and shelter system, but no one wants it in their neighborhood. Profit before people, is what anti-homeless people think and say, we don't want anything to interfere with our precious tourist industry. While visitors to the city are practically worshipped, our homeless brothers and sisters suffer. We can't keep kicking, punching, ticketing and harassing homeless San Francisco residents while they're down on their luck.

That is not us; we are better than this. Please, please, please, let's do more to help them. We must try harder to give our brothers and sisters a helping hand. We are a blessed city, so let's share our blessings with our neighbors who are poor, homeless and suffering with mental health issues.

I'm sending out an SOS. Please respond! Thank you. ■

AN INSIDE LOOK AT OPIOID OVERDOSES AND DEATHS: Part I

Shyenene Brown

Growing up with my mom was truly a struggle. My mom was a true heroin junkie, doing anything and everything to get her fix. But one day, she got tired and decided to quit cold turkey. And for seven whole days, I detoxed my mom from heroin. She stayed clean and sober for 15 years until five years ago when she died from a heroin overdose.

One year and two months ago, I lost my baby brother Michael to a fentanyl overdose. He never did opioids so my best guess is that someone drugged him. And just last week, my best friend, her dad and I were at his spot chilling and kicking it and having fun, then we went our separate ways. Later on that evening, as I was walking with a friend back home, I noticed paramedics, firefighters and police officers surrounding a man's body. As I approached to see who it was, a police officer had to restrain me. To my dismay, it was my best friend's father lying dead on the ground. It took the first responders 25 minutes before they called the time of death.

Those were three personal circumstances of traumatic overdoses with me. So just imagine how another person feels to get that phone call late at night with someone telling them that a loved one died from an overdose. According to a San Francisco assessment on community health in 2016, substance abuse is a contributing factor to seven of the top 10 leading causes of death, and that includes poisonings.

Opioid abuse tears families apart and takes the people we love and care about away from us. It leaves us to fill in the blanks on why they are gone, while leaving a hole in our hearts. It makes us feel empty and at a loss for words, leaving us with questions that might never be answered.

So what I'm saying is, whether people believe it or not, it's a harsh wakeup call for anyone who has experienced such a loss. Deaths by overdose can be easily determined, but what leads to them are mysteries that might remain unsolved. ■



SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

APRIL
17

CITY BUDGET HEARING ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

WHERE: SF CITY HALL ROOM TBA @1-4PM
 The Budget & Finance Committee will be holding a budget hearing on Housing & Homelessness. Join us to advocate for services and housing for the most vulnerable communities of SF at the budget hearing with the Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association (HESPA), a coalition of 27 homeless service providers.

ACCESS: City Hall is wheelchair/ADA accessible.

APRIL
18

CITY HALL HEARING ON LGBTQ DISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

WHERE: SF CITY HALL ROOM TBA @10AM-1PM

Come testify about your experiences accessing affordable housing and other services in San Francisco. The Board of Supervisors wants to know if City departments are providing equitable access to transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and HIV+ San Franciscans.

ACCESS: City Hall is wheelchair/ADA accessible.

APRIL
18

OUR CITY OUR HOME SPEAKERS BUREAU TRAINING

WHERE: HOSPITALITY HOUSE SF
290 TURK ST @10AM-12PM

This training will go through details of the measure, key talking points, answers to frequently asked questions and messaging wins. We will cover basic components of campaigns including targets, goals ally analysis, and collectively craft key messages and techniques to move potential supporters.

ACCESS: ADA accessible space. Bag lunches will be provided.

APRIL
23

PORT COMMISSION VOTE ON SAFE SHELTER!

WHERE: PIER 1 EMBARCADERO @3-5PM

Come join us to speak out to support the SAFE Shelter!

- The SAFE Shelter would provide low-barrier shelter to unhoused San Franciscans.
- There are over 4,500 unsheltered San Franciscans.
- The adult shelter waitlist is consistently over 1,300 people long, which can mean waiting more than 6 weeks for a temporary shelter bed.

April
28

VETERANS ALLEY BLOCK PARTY

WHERE: 555 GEARY STREET @11AM-5PM

Live Music * Poetry * BBQ * Community Mural Painting * Flea Market * Child Friendly * Cotton Candy!

ACCESS: For info call (415)571-1696

MAY
9

HOMELESS MOTHER'S DAY ACTION + BUDGET LOBBY DAY!

WHERE: 555 GEARY STREET @11AM-5PM

Join the Coalition on Homelessness as we celebrate homeless mothers through a brunch at 10am followed by a lobby day at City Hall. After the brunch, you will have an opportunity to learn more about the HESPA (Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association) budget which provides over \$12 million for housing subsidies, mental health services, right to counsel, and more!

ACCESS: The Coalition is up a flight of stairs and is unfortunately not wheelchair accessible. After brunch we will march to City Hall which is ADA accessible.

MAY
13

SPEAK OUT: SB 1045 CONSERVATORSHIP VOTE AT RULES COMMITTEE

WHERE: 10AM AT CITY HALL RM. 263

Join us to urge Supervisors to vote "NO" on the implementation of SB 1045, which would allow the city to expand conservatorship, a legal process through which an individual loses the right to make decisions about their housing, finances, and medical care. The bill targets homeless people with severe mental illness and substance addictions.

ACCESS: City Hall is wheelchair/ADA accessible.

Save the Date:

Our annual Bocce Ball Fundraiser will take place from 11-2 on May 18th at Aquatic Park!

email development@cohsf.org to register

Vendor Profile: Stanley Jackson



WHERE YOU FROM?

I'm from Oakland. I moved to San Francisco in 2000, and I've been homeless here since 2000. I still live in the shelters, and I'll be re-evaluated for coordinated entry on the 16th (of April).

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SELLING STREET SHEETS?

Since 2000. I like it because it gives me a chance to meet and talk to people. I like the contact with people. I'm a freelance vendor, so I sell the paper all over the city.

WHAT WOULD PEOPLE BE SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT YOU?

I'm a born again Christian. I believe in Jesus Christ. That's what keeps the joy in my, that's what keeps me happy. I think people would be surprised to learn that about me. I might not be perfect, but my faith in God is.

WHAT DO PEOPLE WHO HAVEN'T BEEN HOMELESS THINK ABOUT HOMELESS PEOPLE THAT IS FALSE?

People believe that people out here want to be homeless. That they're worthless. But the times, today in this city right here, we got working homeless. Some people have two jobs and still homeless. Not everybody gave up.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

My pool shooting career. I was once the number one pool player in San Francisco at one time. They called me Action Jackson because I love action. I played Minnesota Fats. But the guy that beat him in the movie ("The Hustler"), Fast Eddie Parker, I met him, I played him! He's from Oakland. All the legendary players, I met them all. I used to go to Vegas Stardust tournament pretty much every year.

With enough help, homelessness could be avoided in the United States. This city is one of those cities that when they make new buildings they have to have a certain percent go to low-income. But now they are taking SROs and kicking everyone out, replacing them with folks can pay \$1,000 or more. I think the top 10% in the world should give some of their tax money to building housing for people who have no housing.

Donate to Stanley at handup.org/members/stanley



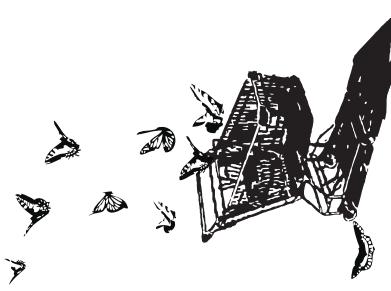
Name: **Ricky Walker, 48 & Becca Hogue, 42** Date: **21 March 2019** Place: **San Bruno Ave between 15th & Alameda** Homeless: **10 years & 2 years**

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